

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23rd November 2010 at 7.30pm
in Grafty Green Village Hall**

PRESENT- Councillors: Mr R Galton (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs S Close
Mr M Hitchins
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Cllr Jenny Whittle
Cllr Richard Thick

PCSO Nicola Morris & Jo Watts

6 Members of the Public

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Robert Turner, Cllr Jenny Gibson, PC Paul Kemsley and PCSO Siobhan de Burca.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REGISTER OF INTEREST CHANGES

There was one declaration of Interest from Ron Galton regarding the Boughton Malherbe History Society and no Register of Interest changes.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th August 2010 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed**, the official copy was signed as a true record by the Vice-Chairman.

4. LOCAL POLICING

4.1 Police Report

The Council were extremely pleased to see the Police represented. There had been 4 crimes since the last meeting – 2 Theft Motor Vehicles, 1 Theft Tractor, and 1 Criminal Damage to property value below £5k.
PA asked PCSO Morris to find out when the next surgery was due to be held, as none had been held in recent months.

4.2 Speedwatch

PA reported on behalf of Chris Wheal that although speedwatch had revealed a lot of motorists driving at speeds of 40mph and above other drivers was becoming more aware of their speed. Speedwatch can now be done by 2 volunteers instead of 3. Due to the non-availability of the equipment and the lack of volunteers there had been no speed checks carried out recently. More volunteers are required; this would be advertised in the magazine.
The clerk said that she had received notification that £500 would shortly be received from Jenny Whittle's Members Highway Fund. Jenny Whittle was thanked for dealing with this. **ACTION PA**

5. DEVOLUTION OF POWERS

These were circulated at the end of the meeting. Members were asked to peruse them and come back to the Clerk if they thought that there were any items the PC could carry out.

6. HIGHWAY & FOOTWAY MATTERS

6.1 Potholes

Potholes in Elmstone Hole Lane have now been repaired.

6.2 Liverton Hill – Improvement to Warning Signs

The clerk reported that the improved warning signs had been approved and were on order but may take a couple of months; this was confirmed by Jenny Whittle. **ACTION PA**

6.3 Gully & Carriageway – below Stream Farm

These problems seem to have been resolved with the work that was carried out when the hill was recently closed for 2 weeks.

6.4 Water Leak – Liverton Hill

No leaks at the moment- dealt with during hill closure.

6.5 Blocked Gully, Pothole/Subsidence opposite Ivy House Farm

Dealt with during hill closure.

6.6 Footpath KH427

The 5 bar kissing gate had not been put in. PA had not checked with the Footpaths Officer whether it had been delivered, she said that she would do this.

ACTION PA

7 RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**7.1 No. 59 Bus**

Not much to report, there has been no changes. John has the Xmas timetable which will go in the magazine. Nu Venture have reported that not too many passengers are using the bus this side of Kingswood on a Saturday-John Collins will put this in the magazine with a warning that 'if we don't use it we will lose it, although nothing is likely to change until April 2014.

ACTION PA

7.2 Emergency Plan

Further documents have been received to help produce a plan in the event of a major emergency a meeting is still to be arranged between Mike, Robert and Ron which would probably take place in January 2011.

ACTION PA

8 PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public reported what was felt to be very dangerous. There is a bus stop in front of The Homestead, during school times a lot of children wait at that bus stop at approx.7.15am for the bus, when it is dark, as it is now, the children are at risk from speeding motorists because the bus stop is very close to the edge of the verge. PA is to contact Michael Heath at Kent Highways to see what he can suggest.

ACTION PA

One of the electorate informed the meeting that the owners of the orchards below Ivy House Farm had arranged to meet him a few days ago, at the meeting drawings were produced showing plans to build a house on the land. The parishioner wanted it to be made known that he knew absolutely nothing about this prior to the meeting.

9 PLANNING**9.1 Land at Elmstone Farm, Elmstone Hole Road ME17 2AJ- MA/10/1387**

Application for amendments to previously approved application for erection of dwelling house MA/07/1053. Council recommendation: No objections

9.2 March Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME172AP - MA/10/1072

Application for Prior Approval for erection of steel framed non-load bearing agricultural building – **Approved**

9.3 Woodsden Villa, Lenham Road, Boughton Malherbe TN27 9LJ – MA10/1007

Application to discharge conditions relating to planning permission MA/09/0197(Erection of a Replacement dwelling-Resubmission of MA/08/2017) re materials namely solid oak- **Approved**

9.4 Petsfield

Although this had been omitted from the Agenda it was an outstanding item from the last meeting. PA reported that a letter had been written in August 2010 following the 17th August meeting, with regard to the building which had been erected without permission, she said she would find out why a reply had not been received.

ACTION PA

10 CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was Noted:

Balfour Beatty - M20 Controlled Motorways Junctions 4-7
 Natural England – New Guidance on Assessing land for designation of AONB
 MBC – Maidstone council elections
 Countryside Access – Year's Report
 Kent Highways-Speed Limit Review
 KALC – Minutes of meeting of 6th October
 KALC – Extraordinary Meeting notification re Concurrent Functions on 20th October
 KALC –Notice of 63rd AGM to be held on 13th November + Annual Report
 KALC – Minutes of meeting of 20th October
 MBC – Draheft Statement of Licensing Policy – Consultation
 KCC – Medium Term Plan to 2014/15 – Consultation Draft

MBC – Parish Conference Agenda 23rd October
 MBC – Salt Bin Filling request @ £40 per bin
 Steve Shaw – Sustainable Communities Act request to write to Decentralisation Minister
 Dorman – Interactive Signs
 Lord Lieutenant of Kent – Invitation to Civic Service, Canterbury 29/3/11
 Kent Fire & Rescue – Towards 2020

11 MATTERS OF REPORT – To receive reports from

12 County & Borough Councillors

Councillor Whittle reported that she had met with Michael Heath re the Liverton Street speed reduction issue, a speed check had been carried out which would show the mean speed and the Traffic Regulation Order was due to be published soon. She is funding 8 signs for Liverton Hill and Liverton Street, which are currently on order, also confirmed that it could take another 3 months. Work was underway with the Sat Nav companies and the Haulage Society to change the current maps which would re-route vehicles away from rat runs and very very narrow lanes. KCC are proposing to save £340 million, over the next 3 years. She is working hard to ensure that the area affected by the Kent International Gateways I protected by extension of the Kent Downs AONB on the basis of the landscape quality of this land. Shortly due to attend a meeting with Alison Broom re the Gypsy and Traveller policy. Jenny asked PA to check the Parish Council's bank account by the end of the week to ensure that the £500 funding for Speedwatch had been received. Jenny was thanked by the members for this £500 and her continued hard work. **ACTION PA**

12.1 Chairman

Robert sent in a report in his absence to say that he had heard that 50 caravans could be placed on the Headcorn Road on a site that used to be known as Camden Farm and asked for this point to be raised with Richard Thick, and although this is not in our Parish it is right on the boundary.

Richard Thick reported that it all depends on what the Inspector decides on the site known as the Meadows; this decision was due around Xmas.

13 FINANCE

13.1 Income received since last Meeting

The clerk advised that £2225.50 had been received for Concurrent Functions from MBC.

13.2 Authorisation of payments made since the last Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Close and seconded by Cllr Wickens **"that the Council approve the following payments made since the last Meeting"**. This was **Agreed**.

300342 R. Turner repaid for donation to Hospice re Les Hulm	£30.00
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13.3 Cheques presented for signature

There were no cheques presented for signature.

13.4 Balance at Bank

The Accounts Book was circulated to the Members and it was **Noted** that the balance was £4971.75

13.5 Concurrent Functions Grant

PA reported that since our last meeting there had been a lot going on with plans to oppose the possible Concurrent Functions Grant being cut, with emails and meetings. An extraordinary meeting had taken place and Petitions had been put up in all the Parishes asking Parishioners to sign showing their disagreement with the proposed cuts, these Petitions would be brought to the next meeting on 15th December. In the meantime Robert had written to Councillor Wilson expressing the Parishes' disapproval.

13.6 Annual Return of Accounts and Audit

Nothing to report

13.7 Election Cost Recharge

Nothing to report, seems to have all gone quiet, with the email which had been sent out in error being withdrawn.

14 STANDING ORDERS

Members had considered the new Standing Orders provided by KALC and amended by the Clerk in accordance with the practices of the Council, it was proposed by Cllr Close and seconded by Cllr Hitchins **“that the new Standing Orders are adopted”**. This was **Agreed**

15 BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY – Report on Progress

Ron Galton reported that the book had now gone through 2 stages of proof reading and was due to be signed off tomorrow; they are all very pleased with it.

At the moment there is enough money for the next stage and it is possible that the sales expected at the launch on 14th December could generate enough money without having to ask the Parish Council for more. The order for printing has now been increased to 500 because of the interest that has been shown. A press release is to be written for the Kent Messenger and the Downs Mail.

PA reported that she had received a letter from the Society thanking the Parish for the grant of £2500, confirming all surplus funds generated by sales would be given to the Parish Council after all liabilities are settled, for the benefit of the Parish. The clerk informed everyone that she had not received a new Electoral Roll important for the distribution of the Book to every Householder, she was asked to chase MBC. **ACTION PA**

16 ANY OTHER INFORMATION/ITEMS ARISING

The clerk reported that she had been notified by MBC that the owner of the orchards below Ivy House Farm, Shaun Charlton, was planning to build a house on the land and wanted to find out how the Parish Council would react. MBC asked if we would like drawings, which were sent, the Parish Council advised MBC that they would not make any comment until a full Planning Application had been received.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

18th January 2011
22nd March 2011

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed. Dated